

Acts Lesson 10
To the Ends of the Earth
Primacy of Paul
Chapters 13-14

Text: Acts chapters 13-14

I. Questions for the Bible student

Pick one or two for discussion.

1. Chapter 12 introduces a new person, John whose surname was Mark. Where have we seen this kind of introduction before (verse 12)? What would you expect to see later in the book based on this introduction?
2. In Acts 11, Barnabas goes to Tarsus to get Saul. Then, beginning in Acts 11:30, we see these two laboring together and referred to in a certain way: "Barnabas and Saul" (11:30, 12:25, 13:2, 13:7). In the list of ministers at Antioch in 13:1, Barnabas is first and Saul is last. But in 13:13 there is a transition: "Paul and his company". And in 15:2, it is "Paul and Barnabas". Is Luke trying to convey something by this? If so, what do you think it is?
3. I have contended that in addition to many other things, Luke is a first rate historian. What details do you see observe in these two chapters of that? If you need some clues, look for names of rulers, titles, places, islands, sea ports, peoples, natural features, modes of travel, etc. that could be verified.
4. The Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Saul to this first missionary journey (as we call it). How did He call them?
5. Chapter 13 gives us our first record of a sermon from Paul. Who was the audience? How does it compare with Peter's earlier sermons? With Stephen's?
6. These chapters establish Paul's pattern for missions when he comes to a new place. Do you see where he starts and who he starts with?
7. There is another pattern of sorts here, one of persecution that we will see recur during Paul's missions. Who stirs it up? How does it move from city to city?
8. In 13:45, some Jews were filled with jealousy. Why? Have we heard that before? (Matt 27:18, Mr 15:10)
9. In 13:46, Luke records a statement by Paul that is a defining point, a turning point in the story. What is that turning point?
10. In 14:23, we read of the first appointment of what? How was it done? In each church, or a group over multiple churches? Are you surprised to see this after so little time? Why?
11. In 13:13, Luke mentions that John Mark departed from them and returned to Jerusalem. Why would Luke include that? Should we expect to see this event take some significance later in the account?

II To the ends of the earth

Last section of book begins with gospel leaving Palestine

Barnabas and Paul called any from local work

Paul's pattern: start at synagogue and work way out into Gentile community

Paul becomes focus of 2nd part of the book

III. Paul's sermon

Similarities to sermons by Peter and Stephen

Core of the message is the same...Jesus Christ crucified, buried, raised; salvation in His Name; fulfillment of God's promise to Israel

One gospel for the world

IV. A few other thoughts

Extreme responses in Lystra

The message described:

the word of God (5 times)

the right ways of the Lord

the teaching of the Lord

the word of this salvation sent forth

good tidings (2 times)

these words might be spoken

preached the gospel (2 times)

They judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life

Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom